

Session 9: Joseph's Dungeon, Zechariah 4 and the Royals

I. HUMILITY IN OUR LIFESTYLE, MESSAGING, AND PLATFORM MINISTRY STYLE

- A. The Lord desires that His people walk in humility that is expressed in many ways such as having a servant spirit, refusing to draw undue attention to ourselves, trusting the Lord to vindicate us when we are mistreated or falsely accused, bearing reproach for standing for the truth, etc.
- B. The Spirit releases power to exalt Jesus and not to draw attention to those that He uses (Jn. 16:14).
¹⁴“He [Holy Spirit] will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.” (Jn. 16:14)
- C. The Spirit is raising up “friend of the bridegroom” type ministries who direct attention to Jesus.
²⁹“...the friend of the bridegroom...³⁰He must increase, but I must decrease.” (Jn. 3:29-30)

II. A VISION OF JOSEPH'S DUNGEON: A PROPHETIC PARABLE ABOUT HUMILITY

- A. In May 1983, the Lord spoke of a season of spiritual drought on America that would break at a time determined by God. I had been asking Him, “How long until the spiritual drought breaks in USA?” In April 1984, God gave a partial answer.
- B. In April 1984, I heard God's audible voice say, ***“I have a message for you. Call Bob Jones.”*** The fear of the Lord came upon me. Later that day, Bob told me, ***“I had a visitation from the Lord today that I am to share with you.”*** In an open vision—he saw a parable related the cupbearer and baker in a dungeon with Joseph (Gen. 40:2-19). Bob saw two men who were accused of having “poison” in their service to the king's family. They represented two types of ministry today.
²Pharaoh was angry with his two officers, the chief butler [cupbearer; NIV] and the chief baker.³So he put them in...in the prison, the place where Joseph was...²¹Then he [Pharaoh] restored the chief butler...so he placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand. ²²But he hanged the chief baker. (Gen. 40:2-3, 21-22)
- C. In Bob's parabolic vision (which had similarities to Genesis 40), the baker was killed, but the cupbearer or butler was restored and went on to serve wine to the king's family. The Lord said that the ***poison in the baker's bread spoke of a ministry that did not promote humility in God's family.*** The bread in Bob's vision represented the ministry of the Word (speaking, singing, writing, etc.).
- D. The Lord told Bob that in His timing He would *remove the ministries* represented by the baker because their bread was poisoned and *did not promote humility* in others.

- E. The Lord showed Bob that He would use “the wine” to reveal many hearts in the Body of Christ. The Lord was going to both **ble^ss and test** the Church in humility by releasing the “wine of the Spirit,” and He would exalt His “cupbearers” to serve His “wine.” However, they must minister rightly before the King’s presence and not “serve the wine” in a way that promoted themselves and their ministries. The Lord told Bob that this blessing and testing was to **“begin in 10 years.”**
- F. Some **reject** the ministry of the Spirit, and others **exaggerate** it. Both come from a root of pride. Some seek their **identity in knowledge** of the Bible, and so they reject the Spirit’s ministry with a misapplied loyalty to the Word. Some seek their **identity in power** and want to be seen as more anointed and sensitive to the Spirit than others by exaggerating the Spirit’s ministry to them. Jesus wants His people to find their identity in their relationship to Him.
- G. The Lord showed Bob that in His global end-time purposes He would first release the “wine of the Spirit” to bless, renew, and heal many, while also testing His servants with humility in it. The Lord told Bob that He would eventually remove the ministries that refuse to promote humility.
- H. **The 10-year period has at least two applications to us.** The release of the “wine of the Spirit” internationally began in Toronto in the spring of 1994—using John and Carol Arnott, Randy Clark, and others—10 years after Bob received this vision in April 1984. A local release of the wine of the Spirit was released in our midst to bless many soon after our 10-year anniversary in 2009.
- I. There is a God-orchestrated “stigma” on the Spirit’s ministry of power (2 Cor. 12:7). We must not draw back in the fear of man from what the Spirit is doing, even with strange manifestations.
⁷Lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted... (2 Cor. 12:7)
- J. There are lessons to be learned from that season that are important for future waves of the Spirit. The subject of the Spirit’s manifestations **tests God’s people with humility** in at least four ways:
Group 1: those who **resist** manifestations because of unfamiliarity with them must be teachable.
Group 2: those who **accept** manifestations bear reproach for it and must persevere with humility.
Group 3: those who **exaggerate** manifestations to draw attention to self must humble themselves.
Group 4: those who **manipulate** others to “manifest” so their ministry looks anointed must repent.
- K. We must only seek the genuine work of the Spirit. It is easy to manipulate and teach people to “manifest” in the flesh by *describing, modeling, and rewarding* “manifestations.”
- L. Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal to a test to see whose God would answer by fire (1 Kgs. 18). The prophets of Baal worked themselves into a frenzy to cause their gods to answer. Elijah poured water on the altar in confidence that the Lord did not need any “help” to answer by fire.
²⁸They cried aloud, and cut themselves...until the blood gushed out...²⁹They prophesied...
³³[Elijah] said, “Fill four waterpots with water, and pour it on the... wood.” (1 Kgs. 18:28-33)

- M. **Premise:** The Spirit is quenched when we promote fleshly manifestations or reject genuine manifestations. We are to test all that is presented as prophecy or as the work of the Spirit.
¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies. ²¹Test all things... (1 Thes. 5:19-21)
- N. We are to be *childlike in faith* (Mt. 18:3) by freely receiving from God, but we are not to be *childish in perspective* (1 Cor. 14:20) by drawing attention to ourselves as children naturally do.
³“...unless you...become as little children...you will by no means enter the kingdom.” (Mt. 18:3)
²⁰Do not be children in understanding...in understanding be mature... (1 Cor. 14:20)

III. ZECHARIAH 4 AND EPHESIANS 4—A GRANDVIEW OF THE KINGDOM

- A. On March 7, 1983, Bob Jones told me that we would one day move to Grandview, next to Harry Truman, and that believers throughout Asia would connect with us by “unplugged TV sets.” He said that the Lord spoke to him audibly, saying, “***I will give a grand view of the kingdom to many nations from Grandview.***” The timing of this would be after believers from Asia come.
- B. In the summer of 1984, I had a prophetic dream that gave me some insight into what a “grand” view includes. I was in a church building celebrating the growth of our 24/7 worship with prayer. Over 1,000 leaders were present (pastors, believing marketplace and government leaders, etc.). A man said, “***Proclaim Zechariah 4 unto Ephesians 4, for this is where the Lord is taking you.***” The Lord is establishing an Ephesians 4 community with a foundation of 24/7 prayer (Zech. 4)
1. The Zechariah 4 vision gave assurance to Zerubbabel that he would overcome the mountain of obstacles that hindered him from completing the temple or house of prayer (Mt. 21:13). God’s promises and provision prevailed as they spoke, “Grace, grace!” (4:7).
⁶“Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit...⁷Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone with shouts of ‘Grace, grace to it!’...⁹The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation...his hands shall also finish it...¹⁰For who has despised the day of small things?” (Zech. 4:6-10)
 2. We are to function as a unified spiritual family, reaching out to every school, neighborhood, and sphere of society through friendship-based evangelism and disciple-making (Eph. 4:16).
¹⁶from whom [Jesus] the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. (Eph. 4:16)
- C. The Lord highlighted Zechariah 4 in a very unusual way. In 40 years of ministry, there is no other passage that the Lord has highlighted more often to me in a prophetic way and confirmed it.

1. In the summer of 1984, I had one of my first prophetic dreams. While driving to a meeting with Augustine, he told me that he saw the dream that the Lord gave me that very morning about what God would do in the future. He told me about it *before* I told him that I had a dream. We drove to Bob Jones' house, he did not have insight on my dream at that time.
 2. The next day Bob prophesied that in 8 days the Lord would powerfully confirm my dream. Exactly 8 days later, the man who built that church building after pastoring there for many years called me from Los Angeles to say, "I have heard that your new church in Kansas City is praying every night." (I was alerted to the house of prayer theme in Zechariah 4).
- D. On January 1, 1990, just over five years after having the Zech. 4 dream, I flew to San Antonio and read Zechariah 4 for about 5 hours. Paul Cain told me that the Lord was going to visit me related to Zechariah 4, saying, "The Lord shows me it's going to be a very important passage in your life."
- E. In 2001, Paul Cain and I were in Italy, and Matteo La Grua gave us Zechariah 4.

IV. ROYAL WIN THE WORLD SERIES IN 1985—A SURPRISING 11TH HOUR VICTORY

- A. *A prophet parable*: In May 1985, Bob told us that the Lord would speak to us through the baseball game that year, and that by God's grace He would orchestrate an 11th hour turnaround for Kansas City; after appearing that Kansas City would lose, then suddenly they win. He said the KC Royals baseball team would be a prophetic parable for what would happen in the kingdom in Kansas City.
- B. *Bob Jones' words*: "On May 21, 1985, I gave a prophetic word the Royals would be world champions in 1985." In a vision: It was the last half of the 9th inning, and it seemed the Lord's team (purposes) would lose. He sent in a pinch hitter named "Great Grace" to score the winning run.
- C. Bob told us, in May 1985, that the Lord would use the baseball game as a parable to assure us that His purposes and promises for Kansas City—they would experience a surprising 11th hour victory.
- D. He said that the Lord would draw worldwide attention to the Midwest that year. It would be a prophetic message about His purposes in Kansas City and throughout the Midwest.
- E. Bob spoke often of ministries in Kansas City and St. Louis being in an important partnership
- F. In both the American League Championship Series and the World Series, the KC Royals won in 7 games after losing the first 2 games at home and losing 3 of the first 4 games overall, thus being in a 3-1 deficit. Baseball fans know that virtually no one recovers from a 3-1 deficit in a best-of-seven series. (It has only occurred seven times in 115 years).
- G. Game 7 was on Sunday, October 27. On Saturday, Bob Jones told me and a group of about 300 leaders, "The Lord will speak to us through the *No. 11* in the game tomorrow." The Royals won by a score of *11-0!*

H. The newspapers dubbed it the “Miracle Series.” This was the KC Royal’s first world series championship.

V. CLEVELAND: A HOMECOMING IN THE SPIRIT (MARCH 1992)

A. In Cleveland, in March 1992, the Lord visited me in my hotel room. I heard the “internal audible” voice of the Lord about the Spirit *raising up blessed families and establishing men in community* and there being a “*homecoming in the Spirit*” from Genesis 12:3.

³I will bless those who bless you...and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”
(Gen. 12:3)

B. This would happen with some connection to the Lord’s word about growing from 500 to 5,000.

C. I shared this with our church family, and Sam Storms included this testimony in one of his books.